ATTACHMENT B

Marked Up Replacement Claims

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim together with all other pending claims.

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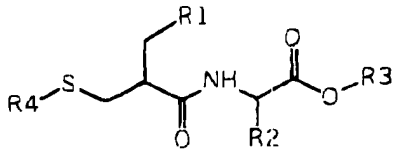
1. Process for preparing a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein :

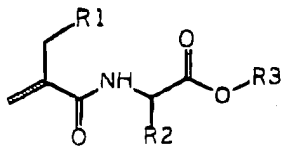
- R1 represents: - a phenyl group; or
  - a 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl group
- R2 represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;
- R3 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower phenylalkylene group; and
- R4 represents a linear or branched aliphatic acyl radical or an aromatic acyl radical,

said process comprising a step (B) which consists in performing a Michael addition of a thioacid of formula (IV):

R4SH (IV)

wherein R4 has the same meaning as in formula (I),

with an α-substituted acrylamide derivative of formula (V):

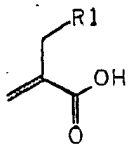


(V)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 have the same meaning as in formula (I).

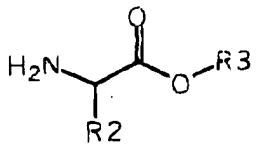
2. Process according to Claim 1, wherein the group R4 represents an acetyl radical CH_3-CO-, a benzoyl radical C_6H_5-CO- or a pivaloyl radical $CH_3)_3$-CO-.

3. (amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~or according to Claim 2~~, wherein said α-substituted acrylamide derivative of formula (V) is obtained from a step (A), prior to step (B), comprising a step consisting in performing the coupling of an acrylic acid of formula (VI):



(VI)

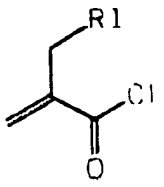
wherein R1 has the same meaning as in formula (I),
with an amino ester of formula (VIII):



(VIII)

wherein R2 and R3 have the have the same meaning as in formula (I).

4. Process according to Claim 3, wherein said step (A) comprises the successive steps consisting in:
(A1) reacting said α-substituted acrylic acid of formula (VI) with an chloro acid so as to obtain an acid chloride of formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein R1 has the same meaning as in formula (I);

and

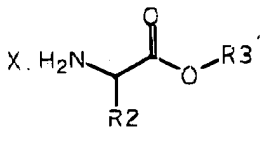
A2) reacting the acid chloride of formula (VII) thus obtained with said amino ester of formula (VIII), in the presence of a base, so as to achieve the coupling.

5. Process according to Claim 4, wherein the chloro acid used in step (A1) is chosen from $SOCl_2$, ClCO-COCl, PCl_3 and PCl_5.

6. (amended) Process according to Claim ~~4 or Claim 5~~, wherein the acid chloride of formula (VII) obtained from step (A1) is subjected to a distillation step before being used in step (A2).

7. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 4 to 6~~claim 4, wherein the base used in step (A2) is an organic amine.

8. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 4 to 7~~claim 1, wherein the amino ester used in step (A2) is introduced in the form of a salt of formula (VIIIa):



(VIIIa)

wherein R2 and R3 have th have the same meaning as in formula (I); and wherein X is chosen from HCl, CH_3SO_3H and 4-methylphenyl-SO_3H.

9. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 4 to 8~~claim 4, wherein step (A2) is carried out in the presence of an organic solvent chosen from toluen , dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, chloroform, N,N-dimethylformamide, 1,4-dioxane, N-methylpyrrolidone, N,N-dimethylacetamide, butyl acetate, ethyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, methyl acetate, propyl acetate and tetrahydrofuran.

10. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein compound (V) used in step (B) is a chiral compound wherein R2 denotes a lower alkyl group, said compound (V) being used at least predominantly in its S configuration or at least predominantly in its R configuration.

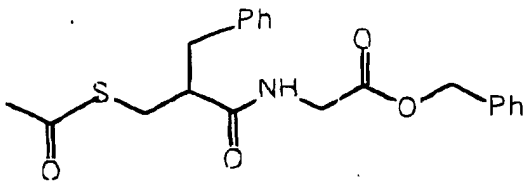
11. Process according to Claim 10, wherein compound (V) is used in its optically pure S form.

12. Process according to Claim 11, wherein compound (V) is prepared by a condensation reaction of an acrylic acid of formula (VI) with an amino ester of formula (VIII) derived from a natural amino acid.

13. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 12~~claim 10, wherein chirality inducers are used in step (B).

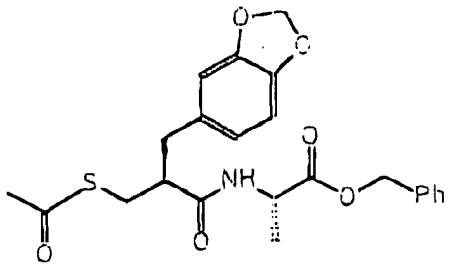
14. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 12~~claim 10, which further comprises, after step (B), a subsequent step (C) of separation of the diastereoisomers obtained in step (B).

15. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein said obtained compound of formula (I) is benzyl N-(RS)-[2-acetylthiomethyl-1-oxo-3-phenylpropyl]glycinate of formula (II):



(II)

16. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 14~~claim 1, wherein said obtained compound of formula (I) is benzyl N-(S)-[2-acetylthiomethyl-1-oxo-3-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)propyl]-(S)-alaninate of formula (III):



(III)